

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1 and 2 (cancelled)

Claim 3 (currently amended) ~~An isolated~~ The mutant of *Monascus purpureus* according to ~~Claim 2~~, which has the characteristics identical to those of *Monascus purpureus* M022, deposited with the American Type Culture Collection under Accession No. PTA-4486; or has the characteristics identical to those *Monascus purpureus* M1033, deposited with the American Type Culture Collection under Accession No. PTA-4485.

Claim 4 (currently amended) The isolated mutant according to Claim 3, which is *Monascus purpureus* M022 deposited with the American Type Culture Collection under Accession No. PTA-4486.

Claim 5 (currently amended) The isolated mutant according to Claim 3, which is *Monascus purpureus* M01033 deposited with the American Type Culture Collection under Accession No. PTA-4485.

Claim 6 (withdrawn/currently amended) A method for producing a fermentation product, comprising providing the isolated mutant of claim 3 and ~~which is characterized by~~ cultivating ~~under proper conditions~~ the mutant under fermentation conditions to obtain a fermentation product ~~according to Claim 1~~, wherein the fermentation product contains GABA and the amount of citrinin contained therein is less than 1.0 ppm.

Claim 7 (withdrawn) The method according to Claim 6, wherein said fermentation product has

blood pressure lowering activity.

Claim 8 (withdrawn) The method according to Claim 6, wherein said mutant is cultivated in a solid or liquid medium.

Claim 9 (withdrawn) The method according to Claim 8, wherein the pH value of said medium is between 3 to 9.

Claim 10 (withdrawn) The method according to Claim 9, wherein the pH value of said medium is between 5 to 7.

Claim 11 (withdrawn) The method according to Claim 6, wherein the amount of citrinin in said fermentation product is lower than 0.5 ppm.

Claim 12 (withdrawn) The method according to Claim 11, wherein the amount of citrinin in said fermentation product is lower than 0.15 ppm.

Claim 13 (withdrawn/currently amended) The method according to Claim 7, wherein said fermentation product is incorporated ~~can be used as an active ingredient ingredients of~~ into a pharmaceutical composition or as a food additive.

Claim 14 (withdrawn) The method according to Claim 7, which further comprises a purification step of purifying the ingredients having blood pressure lowering activity to obtain the purified ingredients.

Claim 15 (withdrawn) A pharmaceutical composition, which is prepared by the fermentation product produced by the mutant according to Claim 1, wherein the amount of citrinin in the

fermentation product is lower than 1.0 ppm.

Claim 16 (withdrawn) The pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 15 for use in lowering blood pressure.

Claim 17 (withdrawn) The pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 15, wherein the amount of citrinin in the fermentation product is lower than 0.5 ppm.

Claim 18 (withdrawn) The pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 17, wherein the amount of citrinin in the fermentation product is lower than 0.15 ppm.

Claim 19 (previously presented) The pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 15, which is prepared by the fermentation product produced by the method characterized by cultivating under proper conditions the mutant of *Monascus purpureus*, when cultivated in a medium containing rice powder 60 g/l, soybean powder 30 g/l and  $\text{MgSO}_4 \cdot 7\text{H}_2\text{O}$  5 g/l, producing a fermentation product at the concentration of GABA reaching 0.03 mg/ml, with citrinin at an amount of less than 1.0 ppm, wherein the fermentation product contains GABA and the amount of citrinin contained therein is less than 1.0 ppm.

Claim 20 (withdrawn) The pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 19, which is prepared by a further purified fermentation product.

Claim 21 (withdrawn) A food additive, which is prepared by the fermentation product produced by the mutant according to Claim 1, wherein the amount of citrinin in the fermentation product is lower than 1.0 ppm.

Claim 22 (withdrawn) The food additive according to Claim 21, which has blood pressure

lowering activity.

Claim 23 (withdrawn) The food additive according to Claim 21, wherein the amount of citrinin in the fermentation product is lower than 0.5 ppm.

Claim 24 (withdrawn) The food additive according to Claim 23, wherein the amount of citrinin in the fermentation product is lower than 0.15 ppm.

Claim 25 (previously presented) The food additive according to Claim 21, which is prepared by the fermentation product produced by the method characterized by cultivating under proper conditions the mutant of *Monascus purpureus*, when cultivated in a medium containing rice powder 60 g/l, soybean powder 30 g/l and  $\text{MgSO}_4 \cdot 7\text{H}_2\text{O}$  5 g/l, producing a fermentation product at the concentration of GABA reaching 0.03 mg/ml, with citrinin at an amount of less than 1.0 ppm, wherein the fermentation product contains GABA and the amount of citrinin contained therein is less than 1.0 ppm.

Claim 26 (withdrawn) The food additive according to Claim 25, which is prepared by a further purified fermentation product.